

Rural Housing Service • Community Facility Loan Program

Serving a Rural Community Through New Library

The existing Blair Public Library was a single story 6,400 square foot building that was built in 1976. The facility had been adequately maintained, but had become functionally obsolescent and had reached the end of its useful life. The inadequate size of the library made it no longer enough space to house and support its entire collection of books, technology functions, administrative functions, education/meeting areas, and reading areas. The size of the library was about half the size of the libraries located in similar sized communities. The building was also noncompliant with several Americans with Disabilities Act and building code requirements.

USDA Rural Development provided a loan in the amount of \$2,775,100 to build a new library. Through fundraising by the Blair Public Library Foundation, \$2,500,000 was contributed. A Civic and Community Center Financing Fund of \$375,000, as well as \$600,000 from the City of Blair also helped to fund the facility.

The new Blair Public Library is a one story, slab on grade building with approximately 27,000 square feet. There is 4,500 square feet available as a public meeting space. The library combines state-of-the-art technology, an expanding collection area and staff areas with a multi-use meeting space. A display area showcases inspiring works on a rotating basis. The facility has energy efficient mechanical and electrical systems. Other amenities include a young adult zone, early literacy space, warming kitchen, conference room, and an outdoor learning center.



Blair Public Library

Obligation Amount:	\$2,775,100 Loan
Date of Obligation:	May 13, 2015
Congressional District:	Smith 03, Fischer and Sasse
Partners:	Blair Public Library Foundation, City of Blair
Demographics:	Blair with a population of 7,990
Impact:	Provide library resources and services to the community at large.
